

RACIAL EVENTS AND UNREST:

I am shocked and heartbroken by the murder of George Floyd and the numerous other black men and women that have been murdered just because of the color of their skin. While I support the right to protest, I am appalled at the destruction of private property that has played out nationally and I am fearful that covid-19 will lead to the death of many more because of these protests. I believe that our country must change because all Americans do not receive equal treatment. African-Americans and other minorities should never have to live in fear simply due to their skin color. Being black should not be a death sentence by the police or any other racists.

Clackamas County has had its own issues with racial injustice – in the past and recently. Demonstrations are starting to take place here so that our residents' voices can be heard. I wholeheartedly support freedom of speech and assembly.

With that, I'd like to encourage you to read two things:

First, an open and powerful letter to Portland general community from the Coalition of Communities of Color. That's on that group's website.

Second, I'd like to thank ~~#ClackCo~~ Sheriff Craig Roberts for his condemnation of the actions that led to the death of George Floyd, and the joint statement from him and other Metro Area law enforcement. You can read those on the Sheriff's Facebook page. We at the County need to work in partnership with law enforcement to eliminate racial injustice. That work starts within each of us – each individual has to do the difficult work of examining their own biases, surfacing them and then deconstructing them.

I look forward to working with the Coalition of Communities of Color in the days ahead on a recently-approved study of Clackamas County to help us better understand the lived experiences of our residents of different races, origins and ethnicities.

I would like to ask our County Council to review Clackamas County Laws and ordinances for expressed or implied bias so that this Commission can make the necessary changes, and ask that the Cities of Clackamas County commit to do the same. Finally, that Clackamas County set as one of its priorities to facilitate changes to Oregon State Statute eliminating any and all biases.